

1997

12. Pro-Castro Activity in Peru: Pro-Castro Cubans in Peru are encouraging extreme leftist student and political groups which oppose the conservative regime of President Manuel Prado. Cuban funds support some antigovernment organizational activity and propaganda media, and are believed to aid leftist student and labor demonstrations. Cuban Ambassador Luis Ricardo Alonso is directly involved in these activities, and dissident pro-Castro elements frequently meet at the embassy.

One of the principal recipients of Cuban favors has been "APRA Rebelde," a group formed by radicals expelled from the leftist but anti-Communist APRA party last October. APRA itself, in an effort to retain the support of its younger and more revolutionary members, maintains a policy in support of the Cuban revolution, but its leaders have privately deplored both the Castro regime and Cuban activities in Peru, many of which are aimed at undermining APRA influence. "APRA Rebelde," which has received Cuban funds and reportedly a promise of arms for a rebellion, has cooperated with other extremist groups in fomenting student and labor disorders.

A small political party of leftist and pro-Communist intellectuals, known as the Progressive Social Movement (MSP), is also enthusiastically pro-Castro. On 10 June the MSP was quoted in the Cuban press as declaring its intention to struggle for popular support of Cuba in Peru.

Pro-Castro elements, which include Communists and assorted leftist student and labor groups, are represented in congress by a small number of deputies who have aroused strong nationalistic and anti-American expressions from fellow deputies.

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